

17. A method of encoding pictures, as claimed in claim 1,
performed by electronic circuitry.

Amendment to the Claims:

- 5 This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims
in the application:

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13 have been amended to remove the multiple
dependency.

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Respectfully submitted,

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